

QUINN RESIDENCE
Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
310 East Lake Front Drive
Beverly Shores
Porter County
Indiana

HABS IN-299
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

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Location: 310 East Lake Front Drive, Beverly Shores, Indiana

Significance: A good example of the Spanish/Mediterranean Style, the Quinn Residence was constructed around 1929 to help establish a resort image for Chicago developer Frederick Bartlett's new suburban development Beverly Shores on the Lake Michigan shore in Porter County, Indiana. Bartlett originally commissioned at least two dozen similar homes in Beverly Shores in the style popularized in vacation spots such as Coral Gables, Boca Raton and Palm Beach, Florida. Besides these strategically placed houses, Bartlett built a series of Spanish/Mediterranean Style public buildings to set the tone for his new resort community.

Description: The two-story Spanish/Mediterranean house stands along Lake Front Drive, a major east-west axis along the Lake Michigan shoreline in Beverly Shores. The house takes maximum advantage of its lake location with rooms opening out to porches and patios. Like its counterpart to the east, the Quinn house has Mediterranean-inspired features such as a red clay tile roof, stucco walls, arched windows and doorways, and wrought iron balconies. The plan basically consists of two rectangles placed side by side. The two-story east section features a series of shed, gable, and flat roofs and the perpendicular one-story west section has a gabled roof. Constructed of frame with a stucco finish, the house has a concrete block foundation. Style and type of windows vary from the original multi-pane wood casements and a large multi-pane fixed glass window to a newer large single-pane fixed glass window. The building displays decorative stucco work on the chimney and at the roofline. The high-ceilinged living room contains original wood trusses and exposed beams.

History: The Spanish/Mediterranean houses at 310 and 406 East Lake Front Drive were the first two homes built on the lakefront in Beverly Shores. Built about 1929, developer Frederick Bartlett probably used the houses as models to promote the high-style resort he platted in 1927. These homes and about 23 other Spanish/Mediterranean style homes throughout the new subdivision were designed by Chicago architect Frederick Mertz and constructed by Leo Post, a local builder who owned the Beverly Shores Construction Company. For Beverly Shores Mertz favored the architectural traits of Florida resort homes such as integration of indoor and outdoor spaces created by frequent use of French doors, arcaded windows leading from high-ceilinged living rooms to patios, and floor plans that were usually one-room deep. The houses in Beverly Shores ranged from \$3,500 to \$6,000.

Prospective Beverly Shores home-buyers could choose one of five basic floor plans for their Spanish/Mediterranean home from a plan book published by Bartlett. Homes with floor plans labeled A,B,C,D, and E could be built with one of 10 different facades. The house at 310 East Lake Front Drive illustrates plan E6 featuring a first-floor patio

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and living room to the west, a dining room and kitchen to the east and an attached garage. The second floor contains three bedrooms and a bathroom. This house featured the same floor plan as its neighbor to the east, the Dunn residence, which boasted a slightly different façade.

The Bartlett Realty Company may have leased the house before it was sold in 1944 to two sisters from Chicago, Adelia F. Leonard and Evelyn A. Friedl. The house had two more owners before Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore acquired the property in 1970. The house was used as a residence until 1998.

Sources: Maria Ali, Historian, Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, The Century of Progress Documentation Project, 1993-1994, HABS No. IN-239, Washington, D.C.

Frederick Mertz, "Plan Book of Beverly Shores," circa 1929, Beverly Shores Train Station and Museum.

Jim Morrow, Beverly Shores: A Suburban Dunes Resort, Arcadia Publishing, Chicago, Illinois, 2001.

Porter County Deed Records, 1930-1975, Porter County Recorder's Office, Valparaiso, Indiana.

William G. Taft, "Beverly Shores and the Development of the Modern Suburban Resort," circa 1994, copy in Historian's files, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

Historian: Janice Slupski, Historian, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, 2002.